On page 9, lines 12-14, please replace the paragraph with:

---As already mentioned above in a particularly preferred embodiment of the method the according to the invention the hydrophilic extension comprises the amino acid sequence MAELGSGSELHRGGGRSRTS (SEQ ID NO. 1) use.---

On page 9, line 31 replace the paragraph with:

---Nucleotide and amino acid sequence of the mutated pr17N-gene or-protein (SEQ ID NOS 2 & 3).---

On page 10, lines 31-38, please replace the paragraph with:

---A modification at the 5-end of the pr17-gene (ORF4) was achieved by translational fusion of the multiple cloning site of the Bluescript-vector, insertion of an optimized translation initiation codon as well as mutation of the two pr17-WT AUG initiation codon to ACG (Figure 1). This modification results in the expression of a derivative (pr17-N) of the pr17-WT-protein with a hydrophilic extension through the sequence MAELGSGSELHRGGGRSRTS (SEQ ID NO. 1) at the amino terminus (Tacke (1996), op.cit.; Figure 2). The production of the plasmid p17N is described in Schmitz (1996), Nucleic Acids Res. **24**: 257-263 (therein named p17/NIII).---

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

16. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the hydrophilic extension is the amino acid MAELGSGSELHRGGGRSRTS (SEQ ID NO. 1).

REMARKS

The application and claims have been amended to refer to updated sequence identifiers in conjunction with Applicant's response to the Notice to Comply mailed June 6, 2002. A marked-up copy of the original page of the application bearing the modified paragraph reflect the amendments in red ink.